

Corey, a member of East High School's baseball team, has loved baseball for as long he can remember, and thinks that America's pastime has taught him some invaluable life lessons. Earlier this year he was going through his own baseball gear in anticipation of the upcoming season, and discovered he had an excess supply of lightly used baseball equipment; then he realized that many others would also have extra baseball bats, cleats and mitts. Corey then took it upon himself to rally the community in support of the Runyan Field Baseball Program, a youth league in Pueblo. Corey solicited teammates, neighbors and community members to donate used baseball gear. Corey organized a sale of the equipment, and announced all profits would go towards helping the underprivileged members of the Runyan Program.

Corey Laughlin's desire to share the game he loves with the less fortunate members of his community shows an incredible level of maturity, a deep sense of thoughtfulness, and gives me faith in future generations of Americans. Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to stand and pay tribute to the charitable efforts of Corey Laughlin.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—GINU SCARIA

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Representatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, "CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces." I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, "A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization."

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the

2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

Through community service and involvement, I have learned to view matters in a whole new perspective. When I look at my goals now of changing the world one step at a time, I know I am getting a step closer by taking part in service activities and events. Helping out is now part of who I am and my definition. It is definitely going to part of future in college as well as afterwards when earning a career. Gandhi once said to, "be the change you wish to see in the world." I believe the world gets a positive change every time someone steps up to the plate to make a difference, whether is it through community service or starting a charity. It is through generous hands that we learn a better role of ourselves and gain a better knowledge of viewing matters in a whole new angle. As Student Council President, helping out becomes an everyday routine, and I am very proud to have the opportunity. As a member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, I am happy to take part in community involvement, and because of it I have learned a life lesson. I cannot forget.

—Ginu Scaria

COMMENDING JOHN TWITTY OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of one of Missouri's finest leaders and my personal friend, John Twitty.

John is an icon in the 7th District. He's provided Springfield, Missouri with affordable electricity, inexpensive natural gas, and clean drinking water for almost a decade as the General Manager and Chief Executive Officer of City Utilities. You would be hard-pressed to find a better leader with more integrity, which is evidenced by the high regard in which he is held throughout the city of Springfield, the State of Missouri, and across the country.

Whether he is dealing with employees, the general public, or community leaders, John maintains his professionalism and character. He sincerely cares for each one of the employees at City Utilities and for the entire Springfield community.

I am just one of many in the community that recognizes John as an outstanding leader. For his national leadership, he received the American Public Power Association's Alex Radin Distinguished Service Award—its top honor. He has also served as their Chairman. For his statewide leadership, he received the Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities Distinguished Service Award. For his contribution to Missouri and the nation, he received the Missourian Award and the Outstanding Missourian Award from the Missouri House of Representatives and the Missouri Senate.

John has also been very active in the Springfield community. Although he would be the last to say so himself, John has given

much to Springfield through his outreach and involvement in community organizations. He has worked with the United Way of the Ozarks, the Springfield Business and Development Corporation, the Partnership Industrial Center West Administrative Council, St. John's Health System, Empire Bank, the Rotary Club of Springfield Southeast, the Boys & Girls Town of Missouri, and other local organizations.

John will retire this June. No doubt, he will enjoy spending more time playing golf and with his family. John's family includes his wife, Jean, a retired Greene County Assessor and current member of the Springfield Public Schools Board of Education, and his daughter, Dr. Anne S. Twitty, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Mississippi.

Although John is about to embark on a much-deserved leave of absence, his legacy will live on whenever a family cooks dinner using low-cost electricity or when children drink clean water from a school water fountain. He has faithfully performed the duty shared by all public servants; he left the institutions in his care stronger and better for the next generation. Let us all draw humility and purpose from his example.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID LOESACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Mr. LOESACK. Mr. Chair, I mistakenly cast my vote on this measure as a "no" vote. I intended to cast an "aye" vote on this measure.

A TRIBUTE TO ALBERT B. WASHKO

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Albert B. Washko. Al concluded 21 years of dedicated service to the Department of Veterans Affairs when he retired on March 31, 2011.

Ensuring our nation's veterans were provided with the world-class benefits and services they earned was not a mission Al took lightly as evidenced by his dedication to serving the men and women who served in uniform.

Over the course of his time with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Al held positions which took him from coast to coast. Before he was named the Director of the V.A. Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System in 2003, Al oversaw 23 medical centers in New York, New England, and Puerto Rico as Director of V.A. Northeast Region. He also worked at V.A. Medical centers in Albany, New York; Palo Alto, California; and Albuquerque, New Mexico. Al has served on numerous hospital, social service agency, and community boards which demonstrated his commitment to public service both on and off the job.

Over the course of his career, Al helped fulfill President Abraham Lincoln's promise "to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." While the V.A. loses a valued member of its team with Al's retirement, his impact on our nation's veterans will be felt for years.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the career of Mr. Albert B. Washko as he begins his well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010-2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—DALLAS RODRIGUEZ

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

For this project I wanted to focus specifically on what I could do in five hours to make a difference in my community. I decided to focus my CYAC community service

on helping The North Texas Food Bank with their current event called "The Souper Bowl of Caring". This event is done in conjunction with local grocery stores and allows shoppers to buy pre-packed bags of non-perishable food items to donate for distribution to the local food banks and shelters. I walked my neighborhood distributing flyers informing people about the event and solicited cash donations to help me pre-purchase bags for the event. I was able to collect enough money to buy 23 bags of groceries. Because I will volunteer for the event on Sunday, February 6th, several others I talked to promised to go in to Market Street and purchase bags on Sunday. This experience has shown me how much one person in a short amount of time can help several families survive for a couple of weeks. It confirmed to me that we can all make a difference in the lives of others by just taking a few hours out of our lives and focusing on helping others.

—Dallas Rodriguez

IRENE PARSONS SHATTERED MANY GLASS CEILINGS IN HER YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Irene Parsons, of Wilkes County, North Carolina, who passed away last week.

Parsons was a woman who knew a thing or two about shattering glass ceilings. After she graduated from the Women's College of the University of North Carolina in 1941, she then went on to graduate with the first class of the Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard, known as SPARS. She then served at the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington.

After the war Parsons worked at the Veterans Administration. She was eventually appointed by President Johnson as director of personnel at the Veterans Administration. At the time, the VA was the second largest government agency with over 200,000 employees and Parsons was the only female director of personnel for a major government agency.

Later, in 1972, Parsons was honored with a Career Service Award from President Nixon for her many years of service to our nation. She was also the first woman to receive the VA's coveted Silver Helmet award. Parsons also received the Federal Women's Award during her service in the federal government.

After retirement from government service she returned to her home in Wilkes County where she remained very active in the community. Irene Parsons made many strides for women during a time in which men still filled most leadership roles in government and business. Her life is an inspiring example for today's generation of young female leaders. She will be greatly missed and my thoughts and prayers are with her family and loved ones who mourn this great loss.

PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, Social Security and Medicare bring economic security within

reach of working American families, regardless of income. Workers deserve the benefits they are owed after a lifetime of paying into these programs.

And, yet, there are some, driven by blind ideology and partisanship, who aim to chip away at those guarantees, bit by bit. There are budget proposals—reducing the operating expenses for the Social Security program, and curtailing the ability of Social Security to pay benefits—that hint of a radical restructuring of the program. There are budget proposals that are unabashed in their radicalism toward Medicare.

In the name of fixing deficits in other areas of the budget, some will try to point fingers at seniors programs as the culprit, but don't you believe it. We must be extremely cautious and jealous in protecting Social Security and Medicare, or we may find that they will be taken away forever.

DENNIS MANN WILL BE MISSED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 8th, the Town of Sharon and many others will be honoring Dennis Mann on the occasion of his retirement as the Fire Chief of Sharon, Massachusetts. Sharon is a town very well represented in this body—it has been, since 1982, in the district I am privileged to represent, and it is the hometown of my colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. KEATING, who served Sharon as a State Representative and State Senator before moving on to become the District Attorney for the county in which it is located and, most recently, our colleague here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, Dennis Mann exemplifies public service at its best, and at a time when too many people are prone to denigrate public servants, I am very proud to hold him up as an example of the kind of dedication, integrity, and commitment from which the public benefits. Dennis Mann has been a member of the Sharon Fire Department for over 30 years, and he was Chief for 13. In addition to the difficult job of running a fire department, with all that that entails, Dennis Mann's commitment to others has led him to teach CPR and also serve as an instructor in karate.

Mr. Speaker, we are as a society very lucky to have people who are prepared to risk their lives in the fire service, one of the most dangerous occupations in the world, and we too often take for granted the safety that they provide for us. I very much regret that there are those who would deny them the resources we need—and I say we and not they—for them to do their job on our behalf.

Mr. Speaker, to Dennis Mann, his wife Kathy, and their children Jamie and Carissa, I send my very best wishes; my congratulations on a job well done; and gratitude for the example Mr. Mann has set for public service at its best.